

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, GW, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH - FRG RELATIONS

REF: BONN 4567

SUMMARY:

1. OFFICIALS OF THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN WARSAW HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE MARCH 17-18 VISIT OF ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH AS A WORKING SESSION CONCERNED ONLY WITH CONTINUING AND DEVELOPING BUSINESS CONTACTS, NOT WITH RESOLVING POLITICAL ISSUES. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GERMAN-POLISH MIXED COMMISSION, HELD DURING THE VISIT, ESTABLISHED A SERIES OF WORKING GROUPS WHICH ARE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION IN KEY SECTORS OF THE POLISH ECONOMY. TALKS ON PENSIONS, WHICH WERE CARRIED ON INDEPENDENTLY OF THE FRIDERICH VISIT, HAVE APPARENTLY PROGRESSED ACCORDING TO FRG EXPECTATIONS, AND A FOLLOW-ON MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MIXED COMMISSION APPEARS TO BE PATTERNED AFTER THE GERMAN-SOVIET MODEL AS IT INCLUDES GOVERNMENT

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OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN

PRIVATE FIRMS. THE GERMAN SIDE IS SAID TO HAVE IN MIND A LONG-TERM PROGRAM INVOLVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN POLAND TO SUPPLY THE GERMAN MARKET. WORKING GROUPS WERE SET UP TO STUDY CONCRETE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF COAL MINING AND TRANSFORMATION; TRANSPORT, ELECTONICS; SHIPBUILDING; CHEMICALS; THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY; AND NON-FERROUS METALS. ALL GROUPS ARE TO HOLD INITIAL SESSIONS BEFORE JUNE 15, 1975.

3. THE FRG HAS ALSO AGREED TO NEGOTIATIONS ON A FIVE YEAR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THESE TALKS, WHICH ARE VIEWED BY THE FRG EMBASSY HERE AS A LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF THE TEN YEAR POLISH-GERMAN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION SIGNED IN NOVEMBER, 1974, ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY.

4. SOCIAL SECURITY TALKS EVIDENTLY MOVED ALONG AS THE FRG HAD ANTICIPATED. A SESSION TO BE HELD IN MAY WILL DEAL WITH THE AMOUNT OF THE LUMP SUM PAYMENT AND THE ASSOCIATED ISSUE OF WHETHER AND HOW IT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY POLISH INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

5. THE FRG EMBASSY HAS TAKEN GREAT CARE TO STRESS THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS DISCUSSED DURING THE MIXED COMMISSION MEETING FROM THE POLITICAL ISSUES OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS POINT OF VIEW, OF COURSE, SOMEWHAT OVERSIMPLIFIES THE SITUATION. POLAND'S FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT WITH THE FRG FOR 1974 AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$725 MILLION, UP FROM NEARLY \$495 MILLION IN 1973. THE TYPES OF PROJECTS WHICH THE MIXED COMMISSION SEEMS TO HAVE IN MIND COULD HELP THE POLES BALANCE TRADE WITH THE FRG, BUT ONLY IF LARGE CREDITS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO FINANCE THE NECESSARY INVESTMENTS. CREDITS, HOWEVER, ARE LINKED TO THE RESOLUTION OF BROADER ISSUES.

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